

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE INTERNATIONAL
PRELIMINARY EXAMINING AUTHORITY
(SEPARATE SHEET)

International application No.

PCT/GB2004/004590

1 Reference is made to the following documents:

D1: DE 28 33 328 A

D2: DE 200 06 579 U — *translation obtained*

D3: DE 33 14 637 A

2 The following documents were not cited in the international search report. Copies of the documents are appended hereto:

D4: DE 196 03 540 A

D5: US 5 022 381 A

3 The present application does not meet the criteria of Article 33(1) PCT, because the subject-matter of claims 1-14 does not involve an inventive step in the sense of Article 33(3) PCT.

3.1 Claim 1

The document D4 is regarded as being the closest prior art to the subject-matter of claim 1, and discloses (see column 3, line 3 - column 4, line 3 and figure 1; the references in parentheses applying to this document):

A set of tiles, incorporating at least two solar thermal tiles [...], wherein a solar thermal tile (12) comprises a chassis on which is mounted a transparent portion (34) for permitting the entry of sunlight into a heating space (26) below the solar thermal tile (12), the chassis being formed separately from said transparent portion (34), wherein the chassis comprises at least one protrusion (14, 16) on at least one edge and at least one aperture, said transparent portion (34) being located to cover the at least one aperture, said protrusion (14, 16) being adapted to form an overlapping relationship with a second tile (12) when correctly mounted adjacent thereto [...].

The subject-matter of claim 1 therefore differs from this known set of tiles in that:

(a) the set of tiles is incorporating at least one photovoltaic tile;

(b) the at least one photovoltaic tile comprises a photovoltaic cell, a chassis and a photovoltaic laminate;